

Message Text

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TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061945

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI

SUBJECT:NATO AEW: US POSITION AT SPECIAL MINISTERIAL

REF: USNATO 1558, DTG 1817517 MAR 77.

1. USNATO SHOULD REQUEST ASYG LABERGE PREPARE FOR
MINISTERIAL APPROVAL PROPOSALS ON NATO AEW COST SHARING,
INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: (A) A PROPOSAL WITHOUT FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN PROCUREMENT WHICH INCREASES US SHARE
TO 33 PERCENT WITH A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN THE FRG
SHARE, AS DISCUSSED BETWEEN SECDEF AND FRG MOD LEBER IN
WASHINGTON ON MARCH 15/16; (B) A PROGRAM INCLUDING FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN PROCUREMENT WITH THE CFM-56 ENGINE,
SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE.

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2. THE PAPER FOR THE MINISTERS' CONSIDERATION SHOULD
ALSO INFORM MINISTERS THAT US IS PREPARED TO CONCLUDE
MOUS WITH MAJOR PRODUCTION-SHARING NATIONS WHICH WOULD
PROVIDE MILITARY OFFSET EQUIVALENT TO THE VALUE OF
INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION SURRENDERED IN THE INTEREST OF
REDUCING OVERALL AEW PROGRAM COSTS.

3. IT IS OUR OBJECTIVE AT BRUSSELS TO OBTAIN A MINISTERIAL

DECISION TO ADOPT THE NATO AEW PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW, WITH SUBSEQUENT CABINET/PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION (WITH FRENCH APPROVAL, PLAN COULD INCLUDE AN OPTION FOR EARLY FRENCH DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN PROCUREMENT). WE WOULD EXPECT MINISTERS TO REPORT ON CABINET/PARLIAMENTARY ACTIONS AT MAY DPC.

4. IN SUM, THE BOTTOM LINE AS WE SEE IT IS THAT AT THE MARCH 25 MEETING ALLIED MINISTERS WOULD AGREE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SUPPORT NATO AEW WITH THEIR CABINETS AND/OR PARLIAMENTS (DEPENDING ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES) AND TO AGREE TO COMPLETE THIS PROCESS IN TIME TO REPORT TO THE MAY 17 DPC.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION CANADIAN MOD DEPUTY ASSISTANT MINISTER BLACK TOLD DOD THAT DANSON COULD NOT GO BEYOND COMMITTING HIMSELF ALONG ABOVE LINES. THIS POSITION WAS CONVEYED BY CANADIANS TO UK MOD DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY ANDERSON WHO REPLIED UK UNDERSTOOD CABINET/ PARLIAMENT PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS AND CANADIAN POSITION WOULD MEET UK NEEDS. IF OTHER ALLIES CAN DO AS MUCH, THE UK MAY BE SATISFIED.

6. FOR BONN, LONDON, OTTAWA, PARIS: PLEASE INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT MODS OF CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE.

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7. FOR OTHER ADDRESSEES: IN ADDITION, PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING: THE US AND FRG HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS INTENDED TO RESOLVE BILATERAL DIFFERENCES, INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION OF SHARES. AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, US/FRG NEGOTIATIONS WERE ALSO INTENDED TO ACHIEVE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TO ALLOW UK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATO AEW PROGRAM. AT THE SAME TIME, US/FRG/UK ALL AGREE UPON THE IMPORTANCE OF ALLIANCE-WIDE PARTICIPATION. STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT BY INDIVIDUAL ALLIED MINISTERS ARE NEEDED AND COULD BE CRUCIAL TO THE OUTCOME OF THIS DPC.

8. FOR USNATO: AMBASSADOR IS AUTHORIZED DRAW ON THIS MESSAGE AND STATE 060506 IN CONNECTION WITH DEBRIEFING OF LUNS AND ALLIES. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD COORDINATE WITH PA;LS AND OMIT REPEAT OMIT INFORMATION CONCERNING LEBER-SCHMIDT RELATION CONTAINED IN PARA 1 OF AWACS SECTION OF STATE 060506.

9. SECTION II OF AGENDA OUTLINED IN REF SHOULD BE
A LABERGE PRESENTATION. LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT
"DETAIL" MAY BE WORKED OUT IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING
AFTER MINISTERS AGREE ON BASIC PROGRAM FOR ENDORSEMENT

THROUGH NATIONAL PROCESSES. HOWEVER, WHILE WE DO NOT
REPEAT NOT WANT AN ITEM BY ITEM DISCUSSION OF THE
SUBJECTS COVERED UNDER SECTION II, WE RECOGNIZE THAT
SUCH SUBJECTS AS NATIONAL SHARES AND POSSIBLE FRENCH
PARTICIPATION MAY SURFACE DURING SECTION III "GENERAL
DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS."

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